MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon-Israel Negotiations

Agenda -- "Some progress" was made during the first round of talks held in Khaldah, but attempts to reach a consensus on an agenda and the order in which the topics will be discussed were unsuccessful, Beirut Voice of Lebanon and Jerusalem radios reported. However, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman told Voice of Lebanon that the talks were held in a friendly, optimistic atmosphere. The second meeting will take place, as scheduled, on 30 December in Qiryat Shemona, another Voice of Lebanon report stated.

Lebanese Meetings -- At a meeting of the political operations room, which was chaired by President al-Jumayyil and attended by high-ranking government officials and the Lebanese representatives at the negotiations, it was noted that the Lebanese delegation had frankly and clearly defined what the government wants to achieve at the talks, Beirut radio affirmed. A "responsible source" told the radio that the government will not relinquish the basic principles with which it entered the negotiations.

Lebanon's Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Committee unanimously agreed to support the government's stand at the talks and the committee's chairman urged all Lebanese to support the government during the current negotiations, Beirut radio reported.

Security Situation -- Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan called for a united stand to face the dangers of fragmentation and voiced regret over the internecine strife and lax security in a number of Lebanese areas, Beirut radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon claimed that the Progressive Socialist Party was responsible for recent attacks on the army and internal security forces in Khaldah, 'Alayh, and Ash-Shuf and asserted that the official statements the party has issued in support of the government are "mere slogans" intended to cover up their aggressive actions. Citing several attacks allegedly perpetrated by the Socialists and the movement of arms in the Al-Musaytibah area, the Voice of Lebanon asserted that the Socialists are apparently determined to "poison" the Beirut atmosphere and transfer the strife elsewhere.

Two Progressive Socialist Party members were killed on 27 December during an attack on the party's headquarters in Beirut, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio claimed. The radio asserted that a member of the Phalangist Party fired on Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt's house on 28 December.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat-Kreisky Talks -- Although Jerusalem radio cited a PLO representative's confirmation that the PLO is indirectly negotiating with Israel on various issues, including the possible exchange of prisoners, a high-ranking Palestinian official who attended the recent meeting between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky denied that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss such an exchange, KUNA reported. However, the official stated that Kreisky did broach the subject, and 'Arafat confirmed that the PLO would like to have another prisoner exchange with Israel, KUNA added.

In an interview with Vienna radio, Kreisky stated that he was mediating as a humanitarian gesture and not as a favor for any government, although he understood that the prisoners' families had requested his assistance with the knowledge of the government. A source in the Austrian chancellor's office told Jerusalem radio that despite Israel's criticism of the chancellor's Middle East policy, "when the Israelis need us, they know when to come and ask for help."

Egyptians, Palestinians Freed -- As a result of efforts made by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, 10 Egyptians and 3 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons have been released, Cairo radio reported. Twenty-one Egyptians held in the Al-Ansar camp in southern Lebanon will be released soon, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces killed 95 Iranian troops in the Maysan area and 16 others in clashes on other battlefronts, according to a military communique transmitted by INA. Iraqi forces in the Maysan area shot an Iranian fighter plane, which fell on Iranian territory, the communique added.

DAILY REPORT

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REAGAN STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED

LD281902 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] By making a provocative statement against the DRA yesterday, Ronald Reagan, the White House boss, once again revealed that the United States is the principle promoter of the undeclared war against the DRA. This statement reveals that the United States doesn't intend to stop supporting the Afghan counterrevolutionary thieves and continues to interfere in DRA domestic affairs to create obstacles in the (?revolutionary process) in our country.

Yesterday's slanderous statement by Mr Reagan did not hide that the United States wants to topple the legal DRA Government and replace it with counterrevolutionary servants who have been trained by the CIA and are in the (?arms) of the Islamabad generals. By so doing, the United States wants to establish a regime (?subservient) to its interests.

This statement by Reagan, which is far from a statement that would be made by a responsible political leader, attempts once again, by alleging the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan by the DRA Armed Forces and the Soviet Union's limited military contingents, to (?distort) the true intentions of the United States and the true essence of the provocative policy of this country against our homeland and revolution. Despite all statements and confessions of the press and political personalities of that country and clear expressions by prominent people, including the 4-member group of UN experts, rejecting this slanderous allegation, Mr Reagan still stubbornly insists that (?he is right). Stubbornness and shamelessness is the age-old policy of U.S. imperialism.

Let's see why Reagan and his administration repeat these claims again and again. One reason is as Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in Moscow said: The United States itself committed crimes by using chemical weapons in some parts of the world, particularly Vietnam. This fact has now become a psychological complex that comes out in the form of the poisonous propaganda against the Soviet Union. The fact is that only chemical weapons made in the United States have been used -- by the counterrevolutionary mercenaries -- against innocent Afghan people. Two years ago, the DRA Armed Forces seized some (?CA117), a type of this fatal weapon, made in America, and put it on display before the press and other mass media. In fact, Mr Reagan and his administration (?embark on such allegations) to cover its crimes against the people of Afghanistan and to unleash a lunatic arms race.

Mr Reagan's statement reveals that he and his government apparatus do not intend to stop the killing and bloodshed in our country. It clearly was declared in Mr Reagan's statement that U.S. imperialism (?supports and instigates) its criminal servants, who, to maintain the interests and to carry out the policy of the United States, disrupt peace and tranquillity in our country, kill innocent people, set fire to mosques, hospitals, and schools, and try in vain to turn back the wheel of history and plunge our free and revolutionary country into the centuries [words indistinct].

As a matter of fact, Reagan's statement tells the Afghan counterrevolutionaries that [words indistinct] and indicates that he is their partner in murder and crime.

According to the confessions of the U.S. press, the Reagan government has intensified interference in DRA domestic affairs. Recently, the WASHINGTON POST wrote that the Reagan administration has increased military aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, including [word indistinct] weapons, by over 200 percent in the current year.

The U.S. press has (?emphasized) that the responsibility of transporting these fatal weapons, which are sent to our country to kill innocent people, rests on the CIA's shoulders The U.S. press clearly has revealed that U.S. military aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries has reached more than $200 million. According to recent reports, the number of CIA agents training Afghan counterrevolutionaries in 80 camps in Pakistan is increasing.

Ronald Reagan's slanderous statement attempts to raise the morale of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, whose backs have been broken by the crushing and heroic blows of the DRA Armed Forces and people, and to further encourage them in their crimes against the Afghan people and revolution.

In his shameful statement, Ronald Reagan spoke about the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan. However, he has forgotten that imperialism itself and the White House boss himself use all possible means to try to create obstacles to finding a peaceful solution to the situation around Afghanistan. To increase its military presence in this part of the world, U.S. imperialism needs to maintain ((?tension) in the region.

It is not without reason that a few days before the United States' formation of the military command for Western Asia [as heard], which will replace the Rapid Deployment Force of that country, the rulers of the White House unleashed a new wave of shameless, poisonous propaganda against the DRA, an example of which is the recent statement of the White House boss. It is regrettable that (?Reagan) embarks on such groundless. hollow, and irresponsible allegations from the platform of the U.S. Presidency. One reason for such claims is that opposition to Reagan's home and foreign policies is increasing. Reagan embarked on such ridiculous allegations to prevent the opposition of the U.S. people against Reagan's lunatic arms race policy and the daily increasing unemployment and poverty in the United States. It is not without reason that these days U.S. imperialism and its NATO partners all have unleashed slanderous propaganda and intensified lies against the DRA. The war machine of the United States and its NATO pact partners is operating all over the world, including Afghanistan, fueled with the blood of millions.

At the present time, international imperialism needs further blood to intensify its arms race. The people of revolutionary Afghanistan severely condemn this shameless statement of the White House boss and consider it a high point in imperialist interference in the domestic affairs of the DRA and the continuation of the undeclared war.

Let Reagan and people like him do anything they want: The caravan of our revolution is forging ahead, with the help of the Afghan free masses, without delay. Revolutionaries have seen many enemies like Reagan.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUPS' DESTROYED

LD290636 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] Several counterrevolutionary groups recently were crushed in the suburbs of (Sawkay) and Konar-e Khas Districts of Konarha Province by the Armed Forces. Their ringleader, (Turialay), has been captured.

According to another report from Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, other groups of these criminals and murderers have been crushed in (Dara-e) Subdistrict, (Kuz Konar) District; Nader Shah Kowt Subdistrict, (Shinwar) District; and at the Ghaziabad farm of Nangarhar Province. A large number of various weapons and ammunition have been captured by the security forces.

JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION TALKS BEGIN 22 DEC

BK220933 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] The 23d meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission [JRC] begins in New Delhi today. Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Kahn is now in New Delhi as the head of a 14-member delegation to represent Bangladesh at the meeting. On arrival in the Indian capital yesterday, the agriculture minister said the JRC would intensify its efforts to find a solution to the dry season problems of the Ganges River.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said we will redouble our efforts to work out a viable and satisfactory solution to the issue. He expressed the hope that the JCS would come to an ad hoc agreement on sharing the Tista River waters pending a final settlement. The JRC will also discuss other common rivers. Replying to a question, Obaidullah Khan said Bangladesh has proposed construction of a number of reservoirs in Nepal as a solution to the Ganges issue and it would not be possible to have a proper study of data and other methods without Nepal.

The Indian side at the talks would be led by Irrigation Minister Kedar Pandey.

Press Release Issued

BK251350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Dec 82

[Text] India and Bangladesh have decided to set up a joint committee of experts to carry out the feasibility studies of their proposals for augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges at Farakka. This was stated in a joint press release issued at the end of the 3-day meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission in New Delhi today. The committee will meet immediately and submit its recommendations in 4 to 6 weeks to the commission.

The press release says the commission also recommended to the two governments the need to urgently work out necessary modalities for carrying out the provisions of the memorandum of understanding regarding exceptionally low flows of the Ganges. For this purpose, a secretary level meeting of the two countries should be held soon.

The press release says that in depth discussions also took place with regard to the problems of common and border rivers and on the sharing of the Tista waters. Some progress has been made on the question of Tista. The commission has decided to finalize the matter at the next meeting to be held in the 1st week of February.

The Bangladesh delegation, led by the Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan, later left New Delhi for Dhaka this afternoon. Before leaving, Khan told newsmen that the discussions of the Joint Rivers Commission were constructive and an effort is being made to find out an ad hoc formula on the Tista issue. The next meeting of the commission is likely to finalize the formula, he said.

Bangladesh Minister Comments

BK261621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Bangladesh Agriculture Minister A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan has said he is happy with the outcome of the recent Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission meeting in New Delhi. He expressed the hope that a mutually acceptable formula will soon be found on sharing the Ganges waters. In an interview with an English daily, he said it was the first time the two countries agreed to study their proposals jointly.

Khan led the Bangladesh side during the 3-day meeting, which concluded on Friday last.

REPORTAGE ON TURKISH PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Arrival From Dhaka

BK251517 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Kenan Evren, Turkish head of state, was given a very warm welcome on his arrival in Karachi from Dhaka this afternoon. General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, acting chief marital law administrator and chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Committee; Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi; Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan; and Industry Minister Elahi Bux Soomro welcomed the distinguished guest at the airport.

In an interview with Radio Pakistan, Kenan Euren later said that it is our fervent desire that Afghanistan is free from foreign influence. General Kenan Evren, who has returned from visits to China, South Korea, India [as heard] and Bangladesh, said that wherever he visited the people agreed with his views and expressed grave concern about the situation in Afghanistan.

Answering a question about the Iran-Iraq war, he said Turkey is trying hard to find a solution to the issue. Although we have not found a solution, we have not given up hope. He said the state of war is not in the interest of either country. He said he was very happy to again visit Pakistan, our very close friend. He expressed good wishes for the people of Pakistan.

Iqbal Khan-Evren Talks

BK261003 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Informal talks between the Turkish head of state, Kenan Evren, and the acting chief martial law administrator, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, were held in Karachi last evening. They exchanged views on the outcome of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's recent visit to China, Southeast Asia, Moscow, the United States, and Canada and that of Kenan Evren's recent visit to four eastern nations. The discussions indicated that Pakistan and Turkey share identical views.

During the talks, the Pakistan side was assisted by Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The Turkish head of state was assisted by Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen and the Turkish ambassador to Pakistan.

General Kenan Evren later attended a dinner hosted in his honor by Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan.

26 December Departure

BK261005 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] Turkish Head of State General Kenan Evren left Karachi for Ankara this morning on the conclusion of his brief visit to Pakistan. He was given a warm send-off at the airport, among others, by acting chief martial law administrator and chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan; Sind Governor Lieutenant General S.M. Abbasi; and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Gen Kenan Evren, in a farewell message to Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, thanked him for the fraternal welcome extended to him and his entourage. He said his brief stay has refreshed the fading memories of his last year's visit to Pakistan during which he personally witnessed the strength of mutual brotherly feelings that the two nations cherished toward each other.

ZIA MEETS WITH HABIB CHATTI, IRANIAN MINISTER

BK290613 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Habib Chatti, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi last evening. He exchanged views with the president on the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and matters of interest to the Islamic community. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik also were present during the meeting.

Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, currently on a visit to Pakistan, also called on the president in Rawalpindi last evening. He exchanged views with the president on matters of mutual interest including bilateral relations. Also present were Federal Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon and the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan.

Tehran Report

LD290928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] On the fourth day of his visit, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri, accompanied by other members of the delegation he is heading, yesterday met with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq.

In this meeting, which lasted for 90 minutes and was also attended by Pakistan's interior minister and the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad, Pakistan's president expressed his hope for further strengthening of relations between the two countries.

In a speech, Nateq-Nuri then emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's desire to strengthen its relations with neighboring countries, especially Islamic ones.

Referring to the smuggling of narcotics and the need for strict control of the borders, he said: The smuggling of narcotics is not simply an immoral act, it is also a tool in the hands of world imperialism and arrogance to corrupt Islamic countries. Therefore, to confront this issue more drastically, a joint commission must be formed between the two countries. Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive approach toward narcotics and their smuggling, the president of Pakistan emphasized the need for the formation of such a commission.

In this meeting, there were also discussions concerning the Iraqi aggression against Iran and the issue of Afghanistan.

NDP LEADER OBJECTS TO ALLEGED ARMS ISSUANCE

GF280830 Lahore JANG in Urdu 23 Dec 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the defunct National Democratic Party (NDP), has alleged that arms bound for Afghanistan are being issued to university students and that prohibited arms obtained from foreign countries are being issued to officials of the Jama'at-e Islami (JI) Party. Khan Abdul Wali Khan made this charge during a meeting with a JANG correspondent, saying that because of this, the country is being led down the path of violence.

Khan Abdul Wali Khan said the government should disclose how many prohibited bore machineguns and Russian-made rifles have been issued to Jama'at-e Islami Party officials under licenses and explain why these people are allowed to carry arms openly despite martial law. He asked: Why have these people been given permission to carry arms openly despite martial law regulations against this?

Under martial law regulations, people are even prohibited from carrying a knife with a blade more than 4 inches long. Khan Abdul Wali Khan said the speed at which the country is being led toward a civil war will have dangerous results.

Referring to President Ziaul Haq's recent visit to the United States, he said: Even before he went, the country had become involved in many difficulties on the international level, which shows that the country is being led toward confrontation.

Jama'at-e Islami Refutation

GF280902 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 24 Dec 82 p 1, 10

[Correspondent's report]

[Excerpts] Lahore, 22 Dec -- The spokesman for the defunct Jama'at-e Islami [JI] Party has issued the following statement:

The leader of the defunct National Democratic Party (NDP) and his information secretary, in their recent allegations, have accused the Jama'at-e Islami of obtaining the "contract" for the supply of blankets to the Afghan refugees and of obtaining licenses for arms. The allegations prove that neither Khan Abdul Wali Khan nor his father nor the majority of their party members have any interest in the survival of Pakistan. They also have no sympathy for the 3 million Afghan refugees in the country. On the contrary, they are ready to welcome their foreign masters at Pakistan's borders.

These people, after losing the support of the Pashtun people and to save their dying political party, and in their eagerness to save their very leadership, have adopted the path of lies and ignomy. Despite their long anti-Jama'at-e Islami propaganda, they have succeeded in convincing neither the nation nor the inhabitants of the North-western Frontier Province of their politics. This has unnerved them.

As for their statement regarding the obtaining of permission by Jama'at-e Islami to supply blankets to the Afghan refugees, it would be enough to say that after seeing their lack of interest in helping the Afghan refugees, the JI began searching for funds within the country and outside Pakistan and employed hundreds of its workers in providing relief and aid to the Afghan refugees.

Seeing this, the NDP leaders, to hide their chagrin, began accusing the JI and attacking its moral and humane motives. The blankets supplied by the JI to the Afghan refugees are donated by philanthropic people who fear God and believe in the life to come.

As far as the allegation regarding the issuance of arms is concerned, the people of Pakistan know well the elements and their patrons who are busy destroying the integrity of Pakistan or who are preparing and implementing terrorist plans and schemes. Whether the nation can ignore the terrorists sent to Kabul for training, who belong to the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), of which the NDP is a member. It is Khan Abdul Waki Khan whose efforts result in transporting the terrorist elements in the MRD to Kabul for training in subversion. Can the NDP and the MRD deny having made arsenals of the country colleges and the universities?

AIR CHIEF CITES ACQUISITION OF 32 MIRAGE-5'S

BK281534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim has said that the Pakistani Air Force is now in a position to extend effective support to the Navy.

Addressing officers and airmen at an airbase near Karachi, he said the Pakistani Air Force has acquired 32 new Mirage-5's for which it negotiated several years ago. These new mirages are fitted with Exocet missiles, giving the Pakistani Air Force the capability of extending effective support to the Navy.

The air chief said Pakistan is a defender of peace because it believes peace is in the best interest of all countries, especially developing countries. However, he said, strength is the best guarantee for peace, whereas weakness encourages aggression.

GUARDS COMMANDER ON ACTIONS AGAINST OPPOSITION

GF282025 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA -- Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a press interview here today talked about the country's activities in Kordestan Province and elsewhere in the country as well as the Iraqi imposed war and the latest message of Imam Khomeyni and how it affects the IRGC.

Mohsen Reza'i said Operation Martyr Ashrafi Isfahani against the anti-revolutionary groups such as Munafiqeen (MKO), Toofan, Komaleh and Sahand was highly successful. He said that in this operation 100 MKO members were either arrested or killed while some of them managed to flee to Kordestan.

The IRGC commander said that 70 percent of the Sahand group had been crushed (either killed or imprisoned). He said that this group is comprised of some students and instructors from the University of England and Zionist elements who had recently commenced operations in Tehran. He said the Komaleh group, active in Tehran and Kordestan, has been practically destroyed.

Mohsen Reza'i further said a document found in a raided hide-out of the outlawed MKO reveals its links with the Ba'th Party of Iraq, commencing in 1982. He said Saddam's advisor in a meeting with MKO members pledged and delivered arms, ammunition, medical supplies, food and cash.

The IRGC commander said that the Toofan group had also received crippling blows as a result of Operation Martyr Ashrafi Isfahani and we are able to reopen the Piranshahr-Sar Dasht axis.

The 83 years old Friday prayers leader, Ayatollah Ashrafi Isfahani who was also the special representative of Imam Khomeyni to Bakhtaran Province, was martyred in a terrorist grenade explosion at the city's Jame Mosque during the Friday prayers ceremony at Oct. 15th.

He also said that in the Hamzeh Seyyed as-Shohada HQ. operations, 324 counter-revolutionaries were killed, 212 arrested and 410 wounded. Also a large quantity of ammunition was seized. This operation against the anti-revolutionaries involved the Gendarmerie, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and about 10,000 volunteers from Kordestan Province.

On the recent 8-point decree of Imam Khomeyni, Mohsen Reza'i said that this message of the imam had a great influence on the IRGC, and seminars will be held to make a more detailed study of the imam's message.

The unprecedented enthusiasm of our people for participating in the war, forced us to establish a system for enlistment.

Our forces deployed in Lebanon against the Zionists are at present in a state of training and publicising and have not interferred in the internal affairs of Lebanon, and condemning the Ba'labakk affair last month even the Lebanese authorities have denied Iranian combatants' involvement, he said.

Mohsen Reza'i on the unity week said that our Revolutionary Guards Corps hoped that in spite of all the plots by the superpowers we will be successful in raising the standards of our Islamic Republic to the highest level possible in order to annihilate Saddam and his likes.

'CLEANSING' OF VILLAGES CONTINUES; 25 KILLED

LD232148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Continuing the cleansing of villages in Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan from the filth of counterrevolutionary outlaws, and following the repeated blows dealt by the brave combatants of Islam to the decaying body of world arrogance in the southwest of our Islamic homeland, on 22 December, the heroes of Islam managed to completely cleanse nine other villages in the vicinity of Takab of the filth of the outlaws attached to world imperialism and its mercenary agents. In these operations, 25 of the counterrevolutionaries were killed and a large number were wounded.

Further Report

LD262046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that continuing their mopping-up operations of villages in Kordestan during the past 3 days, the brave combatants of Islam cleansed the ('Omarshalu) and (Rashehqal'eh) heights on the Baneh-Saqqez axis and the ('Omarshal) heights and the villages of Koruk and Gandomkan on the Baneh-Sar Dasht axis of the filthy presence of counterrevolutionaries and killed several of them.

KHOMEYNI STRESSES INVESTIGATION OF OFFENSES

LD281400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Imam Khomeyni this morning received the members of the headquarters for the the enforcement of the imam's decrees: Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, State Inspectorate Chairman Mahaqqeq-Damad, Administrative Tribunal Chairman Emami-Kashani, and Minister of State Aqazadeh.

According to our correspondent, the members discussed the imam's eight-point decree during the meeting. Imam Khomeyni, addressing them and the country's officials, then said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I must tell you gentlemen that what you are doing, investigating the question of offenses that may have been committed by prosecutors, judges, and so forth or within government ministries and departments, is a matter of religious imperative. Decisive and unswerving action must be taken. We cannot tolerate (?anyone) who claims to be a member of the Islamic Republic or a judge who [words indistinct] to set a town on fire, while we remain silent. Similarly, assuming a prosecutor has committed acts in contravention of the religious tenets, are we to remain silent again? From now on, silence is pointless.

You gentlemen must seriously think of setting up a court to investigate offenses and judges who commit offenses as well as anyone else, anywhere, who has committed an offense. Once it is established that the accused has actually committed an offense, the responsible officials should replace them immediately, or within 3 days at the latest. If the responsible officials delay or give excuses and refuse to do the job, then you gentlemen, the commission responsible for investigating this matter, are allowed to choose replacements for them. You are allowed to do this independently. No procrastination is allowed.

On the other hand, the whole issue should be investigated properly to prevent wrong-doing to anyone, God forbid. We must make the load of tyranny lighter. All over the country, people are sometimes subjected to cruelty and we must remove the load of this tyranny and cruelty.

If certain individuals, out of self-interest, try to create a certain climate or try to telephone here and there -- once this is established, they will be considered to be acting contrary to Islamic criteria and against Islam. I declare to the nation that anyone resorting to such practices should be dealt with as wrongdoers. Such individuals must not be admitted to any position a rational person is to hold. Consequently, these people must be reported in order to be prosecuted.

While Islam is trying to do things, trying to eliminate oppression, it may face someone engaged in creating a certain climate or refusing to comply with certain instructions. What this means is that these people do not want to promote Islam. The very minimum response to this is [word indistinct] to flog them. The maximum response is to [words indistinct]. No one anywhere in the country, no religious judge, is allowed to tender his resignation without justification or to try to create a certain climate. If he tries to create a climate, it shows that he himself is suspect and he must be summoned. However, if he does not consider himself competent enough, then he must admit to this, saying I am not competent and cannot comply. Once this person is dismissed, then within a maximum of 3 days a replacement must be found.

At any rate, no hesitation is justified in the work in which you are engaged. This commission, which has been assigned to deal with the issue, should not hesitate. On the other hand, it should not resort to extreme measures. Neither is allowed. This is not a question to be treated in a hesitant or joking manner.

In any case, this is an important issue; it involves the prestige of Islam and the Islamic Republic. It is not a joke. It will not do to see someone in a town committing so much crime and then see a person helping him out. This will not do. These latter people must abandon this practice, lest they too become suspect. I pray for your success; I hope you will carry out your tasks seriously [words indistinct]. I hope you will set up the aforementioned court -- a proper court -- to settle these problems. Once a complaint is lodged against an individual, whoever he is, he must be summoned. If the complaint is justified, then the case must be tried. If the accused man proves innocent, then he should be set free to attend to his job. Otherwise, he should be punished in accordance with religious laws, be it flogging, punishment, or retribution.

Anyone who tries to create a certain climate will suffer from it himself. We will announce this to the people. We will make it public if anyone creates a climate, refusing to do his job. This is actually worse than what the hypocrites are doing, for the latter are not resorting to creating a climate which is Islamic. [as heard]

What they want to do is to create a climate contrary to Islamic precepts. Therefore, they are one with the hypcrites. God bless you all. [end recording]

LABOR MINISTER APPOINTS NEW UNDER SECRETARY

LD281626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the minister of labor and social affairs has appointed Mr Morteza (Bang) as financial and administrative under secretary of that ministry.

QOM, TEHRAN PROSECUTORS OFFICE HEADS APPOINTED

LD282250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] Islamic Revolution Prosecutor General Musavi-Tabrizi, in separate letters of appointment, appointed Mr (Qaza'i) as supervisor of the Islamic revolution prosecutor's office in Tehran municipality and Mr (Sadiqi) as Islamic revolution prosecutor in Qom.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO BE JUDGED 'IMPARTIALLY'

GF231803 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 23 (IRNA) -- Deputy prime minister in charge of rehabilitation of government organisations employees, in a statement issued here today, called on the high councils for supervision of rehabilitation of government employees, to supervise the procedure so that cases of the employees would be evaluated in utmost impartiality.

The statement, issued in complaince with the Dec. 15, eight-point decree of Imam Khomeyni, further added that the councils studying files of employees should avoid extreme attitude and take present achievement and activities of the employees as the criteria for judgement. Adverse action should be taken only if an employee happened to be harmful and carried out an act of sabotage. The statement further stressed that the minimum penalty should be given to those found to be offenders. Employees' secrets should not be made public and in case of violation of any of these points, the high council should take necessary legal measures against the council and dissolve it, the statement added.

One of the points of the decree of Imam Khomeyni stressed that evaluation of competency of employees should be done impartially and far from any prejudice or extreme attitude.

LEADERS COMMENT ON REOPENING OF UNIVERSITIES

Montazeri Message

LD182348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Ceremonies were held at Tehran University to mark the reopening of universities. The ceremonies began this afternoon with a message from Ayatollah Montazeri. According to the Central News Unit, after recitations from the holy Koran, Ayatollah Montazeri's message was read by his representative, Hojjat ol-Eslam Dorri Najafabadi:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Muslim and diligent nation of Iran, students and noble professors -- may God assist you all -- on the eve of the third anniversary of the cultural revolution and in connection with the phased reopening of the universities and Imam Khomeyni's important and historic message, I deem it necessary to draw the attention of our brothers and sisters to certain points:

1. We are all aware that, under the corrupt former regime, universities and the culture dominating them were one of the manifestations of Western colonialism. After the victory of the great Islamic revolution and our nation's political and military victory over the enemy, launching a revolution in culture and the system governing the universities was a timely necessity recognized by the great leader of the revolution. [sentence as heard] After the closing of the universities by committed and Muslim students, the leader of the revolution issued a decree to launch the cultural revolution and appointed a headquarters for this purpose. Although responsible officials have taken effective steps and although our revolutionary students and committed professors have been able to reach praiseworthy results during this period, the reality, as the imam has mentioned, is that a fundamental and complete revolution in all aspects and branches of our culture might take many years. Subjective plans and projects far removed from practicality do not help us to reach our main goal. Instead, we should deal with problems realistically, using an objective approach to achieve an objective rather than a subjective revolution.

For the cultural revolution headquarters to fulfill its set aims, it should increase its cooperation with committed theologians who are in line with the Islamic revolution. It also should use the existing substantial forces and the teachers of religious seminaries as a strong backing for the continuation and advancement of the cultural revolution.

2. The great importance attached to gaining knowledge, learning up-to-date sciences in Islam, and reaching scientific self-sufficiency is quite obvious to our dear students and university staff. Our committed and revolutionary youths realize that without suffering the hardship and difficulty of acquiring knowledge and sciences, this liberated country cannot rid itself of scientific and industrial dependence. Thank God, the country of Iran is rich in water and land resources and needs only expert, specialized, and committed forces.

3. We all heard the imam's recent important and historic message. We should all try to understand the spirit of this message and prepare the grounds for its fulfillment. In this message, his excellency does not consider the observation and implementation of justice restricted to the judicial system and draws the attention of other organizations to this important duty.

In each organization, if any official commits an act in contradiction to Islamic justice and principles, other officials should warn him and report the act to higher officials to be dealt with according to law. What causes more diviations from the path of justice within organizations is the abnormal extremist approach in selecting personnel and in evaluating their acts and behavior. There are times when a person is employed because his is a revolutionary stand without paying attention to his moral and religious stand. In this way, untrustworthy people might be appointed to sensitive jobs. There are times when a person's religious belief and ideology are considered to such an extreme extent that some opportunists, pretending to be ideologically committed and to accept the principle of clerical rule and Islam according to the chief theologian, succeed in securing key posts for themselves without having the necessary competence and knowledge. Such opportunists, in effect, then rid themselves of all the competent, religious, caring, and unpretentious persons, not forgiving them the slightest error.

The imam, may God extend His shadow, in his recent message clearly stresses that if a person's honesty, competence and loyalty has been proved, he should not be put aside because of a trivial mistake committed under the previous regime or under the present circumstances.

The country's judicial system is dutybound to act decisively and to punish the culprits without any bias. If the judicial system follows the points stressed in the imam's recent message, no doubt, public trust in the implementation of justice and increasing social security would be ensured.

4. His excellency, the president of the Supreme Court of the country and the prime minister who are responsible for following up and implementing the imam's recent message are expected, in view of the imam's emphasis, to appoint delegations made up of unbiased and honest persons, chosen with the approval of the esteemed Friday imams and the imam's representatives in provincial towns. They also are expected to take the necessary steps to ensure that the contents of his excellency's messages are implemented as soon as possible. I pray to Almighty God for the victory of the combatants of Islam, long life for the great leader of the revolution, success for the Islamic government in serving the noble nation and meeting shortages, and success for all brothers and sisters in carrying out their Islamic duties. Peace be upon you, 18 December 1982.

[Signed] Hosyen 'Ali Montazeri

Khamene'i, Musavi Remarks

LD190032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, on the occasion of the reopening of universities, a message from President Khamene'i was read at Tehran University. The message refers to the fact that the universities, once closed by the mighty Hezbollah nation to purge them of the filthy traces of Western, Eastern, and satanic ideas and to keep out the anti-Islamic elements and counterrevolutionaries are now being reopened by this very nation to admit committed and responsible university staff and students.

The message explains the plots hatched by counterrevolutionaries to prevent the triumphant progress of cultural revolution, their resistance to the closure of universities, and the propaganda from imperialist and Zionist networks, alleging the closure of (?centers) of science and technology in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message adds: Those who were under the impression that knowledge, technology and culture were inaccessible, except through reliance on the West or the East, have now realized that once again this nation, oblivious to claims by [word indistinct] pretenders, have found its own path and is moving toward its final goal.

The presidential message then says: Evidently, the cultural revolution will not be fully realized in one or even a few years. Today, no one expects a [word indistinct] and hundred percent Islamic university. However, everyone expects the university to move toward this goal.

Marking the same occasion, Prime Minister Musavi referred to the fact that the saga of the closure and reopening of the universities is tantamount to the saga of the revolution, the saga of an upheaval in our society's standards and one of a long struggle by our nation. The prime minister alluded to the motivations behind the establishment of universities in our country and the efforts made to foster alienation between universities and the people. He stressed that no evil power ever announces treachery, colonialism, and exploitation as its intention. It instead enters the arena claiming to promote justice, science, and knowledge. The prime minister gave an account of the universities' fate during the dark years of cultural colonialism: It is for this very reason that the cultural revolution and the expulsion of counterrevolutionaries and foreign agents from universities acquire great significance, since culture enjoys a very fine authority and is extremely sensitive.

Khomeyni Speech

LD191816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Ayatollah Khomeyni speech to revolution guards commanders at the Jamaran Mosque in Tehran on 19 December -- recorded, duration 47 minutes]

[Excerpts] Since the universities have been reopened, will be reopened, I would like to explain to you the effects of imported culture on our society -- what we should do to remedy such effects and what should be our course of counteraction.

I will start with the Armed Forces and explain to you the effects of imported culture on the Armed Forces, on government organs, on practically all our society. At the time of Reza Shah, it used to be claimed that the Armed Forces were the most powerful institution of the time, more powerful than at any other time in Iranian history. I want to tell you a piece of history that I do not think any of you are old enough to have witnessed and felt! When the armies of England and the Soviet Union were at war with Germany and its allies, Britain and the Soviet Union constructed roads and the railway in Iran before hand to use them for war purposes. Later, simultaneously, in 1 hour they invaded Iran. The minute the British and the Soviet forces entered Iran's frontiers, a chaotic situation prevailed in the Iranian Armed Forces. It was claimed that the Iranian forces resisted the invading forces for 3 hours. When Reza Shah later questioned the forces about their short resistance, the reply was that the earlier claim that the forces had resisted for 3 hours was not correct. In fact, the minute the invading forces entered Iran's territories, the Iranian forces fled.

Practically all commanders packed and fled Tehran to hide in safe places outside Iran. This was the state of affairs of Iran's Armed Forces and other law enforcement forces -- the Gendarmerie and the police. Their tasks were to suppress the people. They took over lands in Mazandaran Province. The power of the army and other forces was translated into bringing pressure on us -- on the people, the nation, especially on the clergy. However, these forces' resistance to the British and Russian forces, who were not at war with us, but wanted only to cross and invade Iran, was zero.

One should compare that situation with today -- with our dear guards, our Armed Forces, our Gendarmerie, and our police forces. What made the situation change? A change from the previous situation in which people were silent against arms to the situation today in which our youths stand against America and chant slogans and say, Death to the United States. The point is that such a change appeared in the army, such a change appeared in the revolution guards. The youths who did not think in such terms before the revolution, they never thought about war, warring, and having a military attitude to earn honor among their own people, to protect them.... What is the difference between these two periods?

This change in the situation is the outcome of a different culture. Our culture has changed. The language of our culture has changed from that existing in the past. Starting from universities, government departments and the Armed Forces to the Gendarmerie and all other institutions, down to the masses, particularly the youths, you will realize the effects of an imported culture on each of these institutions.

A society, like an individual, will not think of finding a doctor to cure it as long as it does not feel that it is sick or on the verge of death. Our previous society did not personally feel that it was sick. [Words indistinct] it took for granted that it was healthy and prayed that it would have the shadow of his majesty over its head, believing that the Armed Forces would protect it and so on. Even when it knew it was sick, there was no doctor to cure it because those in power were not doctors. They were criminals giving people poison instead of medicine.

Had the university been culturally Iranian -- a university not modeled after imported culture -- then its products would have been different. Let's examine those who were graduated from the previous universities and poured into and toward England, France, and the United States. What did they learn at those universities and what did they bring back with them?

Those who were graduated from those universities, who completed their studies abroad, and who returned home were the same people who became ministers and formed the major part of the Majlis deputies. What did those ministers and deputies do in Iran? What were their surprises for Iran? All their efforts were aimed at satisfying the British and then the Americans in the land. At their head were, first, Reza Shah and then Mohammad Shah, both trying to satisfy the British and the United States. Why? Because if these outsiders were not satisfied, then Iran's leaders would have been eliminated. When a person is selfish and wishes to remain in power, then that person is not bothered with his nation.

The 400,000-strong Armed Forces created by the previous regime was not a force that could have shown any resistance. The training given to that armed force was not such to resist. The extent of welfare among Armed Forces personnel left no room for any sacrifices for either an individual or their country. At that time, the task of defending rested with the people -- the same situation as today.

I already have told you how the Armed Forces did not resist at all and revealed how basically the Armed Forces were empty. Today, you can compare the situation. You can see how the Armed Forces, the guards and the mobilization forces are fighting. These youths have been resisting the Iraqi forces for more than 2 years. It is not the factor of nationalism that has transformed them. Those gentlemen who believe all these successes are the result of nationalistic fever are making a mistake. They don't comprehend the situation. If they could understand, they would have not been in that state of affairs. It is faith that has transformed our Armed Forces. Armed Forces personnel or revolution[illegible]rds who pray in their bunkers can resist like a lion.

It is the culture of Islam, not the national or imperial culture, which has brought people to support the Armed Forces in the war with Iraq. The latter culture existed before, but the people's support was not in existence.

What creates a nation is the correct culture. What makes a university useful and productive for a nation is the content of a university, not its individual lessons. Industry minus faith will lead to corruption. Science minus faith also leads to corruption. The more knowledge, the more corruption. The dwellers of hell have (?sought asylum) there because of the stink of learned men. A person who has faith will be supported by God, by the prophet and by Islam. If skill is not accompanied by faith, the former becomes dangerous. If there are skills in a country not accompanied by faith, then those skills will lead that country to death, to dependence. We had so many experts in every field in the past regime. What did they do for this nation? They took the people back, making them dependent -- everything and everyone became dependent. Whoever was named they said we have to go to Europe. They used to take our youths for training, but they were not giving them any training. They used to take them away, make some of them corrupt, teach them a series of incomplete lessons and, in the middle of the way, leave them alone and send them back home. They played with us, with our people, and with our country.

They told our people of their promise of a great civilization. Not only did we not achieve the promised great civilization, they caused our decline to the extent that everything of ours became dependent on foreigners. They robbed us of all our wealth.

Those who left plundered all the banks. Those who fled left our banks with so many debts that it will take many years to recover. This was the result of the nonexistence of a culture imbued with faith. There was no faith among the society, among the merchants, among the people in the streets or among the universities. Wherever or whoever was beneficial or effective they (?corrupted) it most.

Thanks to God, He gave His blessing to this nation. He made all of you change and you were revolutionized by Islam. Our youths were saved from that cesspool and entered into an Islamic and humane atmosphere, standing against both West and East. They have nothing of which to be afraid....

You should remember that colonial policy always has been to create divisions among people. Such policy always has been to stage a coup d'etat within a country and to create divisions internally. These forces are still at work and will never give up.

Our nation should remain awakened. Our Armed Forces also should remain alert. Our revolution guards, our committees, mobilization forces, and tribal forces must all remain awakened. They should realize that whenever there is an opposing murmur, there is background to create an issue. Now that the university has been reopened, our youths should realize there might be hands that will still try to give the wrong impression of daily affairs and try to mislead you. The first time you hear a misleading assertion from a professor or an undergraduate, you should immediately report it. Thus, the whole issue will be stopped.

A country with faithful people can never create foreign temptation. Why? Because it would be realized that such temptation will result in more losses than gains. Look at Afghanistan. Its communists, its government, are against their people. Even the limited number of people who are for the people -- for Islam and who have pursued Islamic principles -- have been resisting the Russians more than 1 year [as heard] so far and have made the Soviet Union regret what it has done. One of the Russian officers who fled said that so far 30,000 Russian military personnel have been killed in Afghanistan. The Russians have come to realize that somewhere they cannot enforce something that is not accepted by the nation. Even under circumstances in which the government of that nation and its blasted party are also in favor of the Russians.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,166

LD281738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,166 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the war operations in the southern fronts and the Moharram operational zone during the past 24 hours, as the result of the heavy fire of the artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all activities of the Iraqi military personnel were neutralized and the forces of Islam defended their positions with superior fire. They brought under fire all engineering operations and digging of trenches by the enemy throughout their contact line.

In the Abadan operational zones, our forces opened fire on enemy positions, five observation posts, and a number of antiaircraft guns and killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

Yesterday, as the result of the enemy mortar fire on residential parts of Abadan, some parts of the city were set on fire and a number of homes were destroyed.

During the past 24 hours in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone and in the western fronts, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire continued.

In the Marivan region, the movements of Iraqi mercenaries were stopped as the result of our forces' fire on the Saddamists' positions on the other side of the border.

On the Islam and Bakhtaran border fronts, exchange of fire continued and enemy positions and concentrations were smashed.

Yesterday, enemy aerial violations of border towns and southern and western operational zones were neutralized as the result of the tactical operations of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the fire of air defense units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

AHVAZ REPORTS ON IRAQI BOMBING ATTEMPT

GF281436 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Dec 82

[Text] The Communications Department of the propaganda unit of the Karbala' Headquarters told the Central News Unit: The Islamic fighters continue to guard the borders of our Islamic Iran against the infidels.

During the past 24 hours in the Moharram operational theater, the aircraft of the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy Saddam attempted to bomb the region. However, they were forced to flee due to thefire of the defense of the Islamic warriors. They were forced to drop their bombs in the desert.

Exchanges of fire continued in Ramazan and Moharram operational theaters and was particularly heavy at night. Our fighters in the (?Shahhani) area halted enemy operations and stopped enemy movement in the (Zobeydad) region.

PAPERS VIEW SOVIET OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN

SOBH-E AZADEGAN

GF251142 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Dec 82

[From the press review]

[Text] SOBH-E AZADEGAN today editorially commented on the anniversary of the Soviet Army's loathed occupation of Islamic Afghanistan. The editorial said in part: Today the military occupation of the Soviet Red Army -- which the Soviets call the People's Liberation Army -- rudely concludes its third anniversary at a time when it is harming the struggling Muslim Afghan people. Three years have passed while the oppressed Afghan people live under the heel of the Soviet military. Not a day passes without those who claim to defend the rights of people and to be the defenders of the working class shedding the blood of the Afghan people.

Despite all the propaganda circulated by the comrades in Iran and all around the world and the claims of the communist government in Russia, the goals seem clear. Moreover, the two superpowers participate in the process of sucking the blood of people with no difference but in name.

The paper continued editorially: Russia is following the U.S. steps in Vietnam -- aggression and military interference and the most serious crimes in the world. Moreover, the Vietnamese people only reaped destruction, death, cluster bombs, and napalm bombs -- thousands of those killed were children, women and old men -- in addition to the serious scandals that took place.

Today, let the comrades who claim that their big idol, Moscow, is the defender of the rights of the people be silent, since the military occupation of Afghanistan has added to this superpower's shameful record -- which includes Poland, Czechoslavia, Hungary, and other East European countries. This new shame defames the government which calls itself supporter of the world's people.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI

GF281330 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 27 Dec 82

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 27 December editorial: "Afghanistan Awaits an Islamic State"]

[Excerpts] Today is 27 December, the day which marks the third anniversary of the thrust the Soviet Red Army made into Afghanistan -- which is a part of the sacred land of Islam -- and the subsequent commencement of the brave resistance and struggle of the oppressed but courageous Afghan Muslims. The Soviet attack on Afghanistan has been more violent than the bloody attacks of Genghis Khan, the destructive nature of Alexander the Great, and the conspiracies hatched on Afghan soil by British imperialists.

However, just as their predecessors stood up bravely against these aggressors in the past and foiled and crushed their attacks, the Muslim Afghan people today are defending Islam and Islamic lands against the vampiric blood-dripping boots on the mountains and in the deserts in a legendary way, giving a very rare example of resistance and devotion to the path of God and to the pure (?reflection of the prophet). The oppressed Muslim Afghan people are writing a legend based on faith and Islam by confronting one of the most powerful armies of global imperialism -- a legend being written at the expense of hundreds of thousands of martyrs and wounded, homeless, and loitering people.

The struggle is escalating in waves and the powerful war machines of the imperialist power and its agents and servants in Afghanistan are sustaining heavy blows in the face of this faith. Because of this, they have moved to change their former decisions to look for a political solution with a view to escaping from this battlefront.

Cities have been reduced to ruins and cemeteries because of the Soviet Red Army units. Fields have been destroyed and green vineyards have dried up. Elsewhere in the world, it is impossible to observe the depth of the tragic incidents, crimes, and massacres committed in Afghanistan. The people of this country, who have been hung on the iron hooks of the socialist atheists, are a truly oppressed people who endeavor to keep alive their aspirations. This is confirmed by authentic reports.

Regrettably, however, among the noise of other developments in the world, the imperialist media organs either pay only lipservice to such reports or regard them as nonexistent. This land is whispering numerous facts into the ears of humanity. Regrettably, however humanity is not hearing what is being whispered.

This is due to the fact that the mass media belonging to the two imperialist camps have turned themselves toward their own common interests. Thus, they are processing news reports only on the basis of their vested interests.

It is because of this that irrespective of the fact that the truth about Afghanistan carries the cries of a community which has stood up to voice its innocence, the world media either prefer to remain silent or move to consider their interests in accordance with those of a superpower or with those of a rival superpower.

The ugliness of this aggressive policy has dealt heavy blows to the Soviets who also have observed that the path leading to victory on the Islamic land of Afghanistan has been sealed off. Because of this, the Soviets have been moving in the course of the past few months in the direction of engaging in a number of political activities with a view to finding a so-called solution to the question of Afghanistan. The activities of the UN secretary general and the work of the trilateral Geneva conference are among these activities.

The Geneva conference was convened by the UN secretary general's representative and those of Pakistan and the puppet Babrak Karmal government. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran responded to an invitation to participate in the conference by stating that it will not take part in such meetings unless the forces occupying Afghanistan are withdrawn and elections are held for the establishment of a government based on Islamic justice and meeting the aspirations of the Afghan people and unless an authentic Afghan representative chosen by the Muslim Afghan people participates in the talks.

This statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran again confirms the uncompromising stand of the Islamic revolution in its foreign policy. It is our conviction that the revolutionary Muslim people of Afghanistan will be victorious in their just struggle. This is due to the fact that this Muslim community has based itself on delivering, enlivening, and educating Islamic foundations. It also cherishes faith in martyrdom. Because of this fact, the members of this community will not allow any force or any atheist views to establish themselves and [word indistinct] in Afghanistan.

The Soviet politicians and their puppets in Afghanistan must understand this fact well and realize that apart from the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan and apart from the Afghan people running their own country, no political or military change will terminate the Islamic struggle of the Afghan people. Likewise, no conference or meeting will be able to produce any result. The struggle of the revolutionary Muslim people of Afghanistan will continue until victory is achieved.

Henceforth, the ranks of the Afghan freedom fighters will be strengthened compared to the past for the achievement of victory. The chanting of slogans such as neither East nor West will continue in the future as an indication of rejection of both camps of the imperialist forces in the world. The Afghan people thus will bring grandeur to their Islamic land in accordance with the lofty order of Islam. Undoubtedly, such days will come and the Muslim Afghan people will force Eastern imperialism to its knees. Let's repeat that today Afghanistan is awaiting an Islamic regime.